REMARKS

The Applicants have elected the species of Figures 1 through 7 as indicated above. The drawings have been amended to incorporate reference numerals 92, 93, 52a, and 26a as requested by the Examiner. It is respectfully pointed out that reference numeral 92 and 93 were included in Figure 1 of the drawings as filed but further references have been added in Figures 3 and 4 for clarity.

The reference to cable 128 has been replaced with tensile member at page 4, line 24 and 25. The Examiners reference to page 2, line 10 in respect to his objection to the use of the term is not understood and in the event that the Applicants misunderstood the reference, he has respectfully requested to clarify the objection.

The request for a drawing correction in respect of the structural connections of the hold down mechanism 21 are respectfully traversed. The hold down mechanism is shown in Figure 4 and described at page 3, lines 4 through 14. As noted line 4, the hold down mechanism 21 is generally of known construction and the following description in conjunction with drawings render this operation clear to the person skilled in the art. For example, the band brake and cable can clearly be seen in Figure 4 and the operation of the band break through the operation of the lever and the intermediate link is also clearly illustrated and described. Accordingly, it is believed that further drawings of the particular known piece of the apparatus is not required. In the event that the Examiner maintains his objection and an enlarged view of the portion of Figure 4 will be submitted.

The reference numeral 205 has been added to Figure 8 where the feature of the angle bracket is best seen and it is believed that this will overcome the Examiners objections in this regard.

Accordingly, it is believed that the application is in condition for further consideration of allowance and action to that end is respectfully requested.

Applicant attaches hereto a document entitled "Version With Markings To Show

Changes Made", which is a marked-up version of the changes made to the present application by the above amendment.

Respectfully submitted,

13 Feb 03
Date

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are extended in the stored position and release of the hold down by chain 17 allows contraction of the springs 66 and rotation of the lever arm 52 to elevate the deck assembly 24.

Deployment of the lip 34 is controlled by a lip operating mechanism generally indicated at 80 and best seen in Figure 2. The lip operating mechanism 80 is secured to the underside of the deck plate 28 by a bracket 82. The bracket 82 has a bell crank 84 pivotally secured to one corner by a pin 86. The bell crank 84 is connected by a pivot pin 88 to one end of a push rod 90. The opposite end of the push rod 90 is located in a hole 92 provided in a bracket 93 so that it is free to slide along its axis in the hole 92. A compression spring 94 is located between the bracket 93 and an abutment 96 located on the rod by an adjustment nut 98. The position of the nut 98 on the push rod 90 can be adjusted to vary the compression in the spring 94 to accommodate different lip sizes.

The bell crank 84 is also connected through a link 100 to an L shaped lever 102 secured to the underside of the lip 34. The link 100 is secured by pin 104 to the angle of the lever 102 leaving a profiled radiussed projection 106 extending away from the link 100. Movement of the bell crank 84 about the pin 86 is controlled by a chain 108 extending from the pin 88 to one end of a spring 110 (seen in Figures 1 and 3). The opposite end of spring 110 is secured to the frame 12 and provides a degree of resilience and elasticity to the connection between the bell crank 84 and the frame 12. The length of the chain 108 is adjusted such that it is initially flacid as shown in Figure 1 and becomes tensioned as the deck assembly 24 moves to the elevated position shown in Figures 3 and 4.

The bracket 82 also carries a latch mechanism generally indicated at 120 and best seen in Figures 2, 6 and 7. The latch mechanism 120 includes a slide block 122 that is pivotally mounted through a pin 124 to the bracket 82. A control arm 126 projects from the slide block 122 and a flexible tensile member comprising a spring and length of chain 128 is secured to the free end of the control arm 126. The opposite end of the tensile member 128 is secured to a link of the chain 108 so that it effectively operates between the frame and the control arm.

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The slide block 122 has a central bore 130 which receives a pin 132. The pin 132 has an enlarged head 134 and a compression spring 136 biases the head 134 away from the block 122. A stop 138 is secured to the pin 132 and limits axial movement of the pin 132 relative to the block 122.